rain water. As per preliminary reports, salinity was below injury level.

(b) and (c) No such serious problem has occurred. But the saline affected soils will be managed with amendments like paper mill sludge/press mud from Sugar mills and application of Gypsum. Farmers have been advised to adopt measures such as plantation of saline tolerant crops, planting of proper size seedlings in case of paddy and using polythene mulch in small basins for crops planted in basins.

Arid-Zone Fruits Production in Gujarat

2313. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Gujarat is an ideal State for the development of fruit production particularly of arid-zone fruits; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to increase fruit production in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is providing assistance to the State Governments including Gujarat for taking up programmes for production of fruits under the Central Sector Scheme on Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits. During the VIII Plan and the first two years of the IX Plan (1997-98 and 1998-99) an amount of Rs. 190.15 lakhs was released to the Government of Gujarat under the Scheme for taking up activities like establishment of nurseries, establishment of Tissue Culture Units, Area Expansion, Rejuvenation of senile orchards and training of farmers. An outlay of Rs. 115.61 lakhs have been earmarked for Gujarat during 1999-2000 under the scheme.

Five Year Programme for Land Use

2314. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Crop and Space Scientists have joined hand for a new Five Year Programme to improve India's agricultural land use;

(b) whether all States would benefit from the 20 crores programme by selectivity choosing crops best suited to a particular season; and

(c) if so, details of New Five Year Programme be furnished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The programme costing about 15 crores will address to the issues of all the major states of the country.

(c) The details of major thrust of the programme are as under:

*To prepare resource inventories for each agro-eco system.

*To identify constraints and improve land use efficiency and resource sustainability.

*To delineate micro level variation in each of the identified watersheds.

*To revise the present cropping pattern/system in relation to economic viability of production system of a given agro-eco system.

*To develop eco-region specific land use options based on land evaluation (resource) and socio-economic factors and issues.

*To monitor the state of health of natural resources (land and water).

*Impact analysis of the suggested land use options for improvement and/or modification.

Production of Cotton, Oilseeds, etc. in Orissa

2215. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have identified the areas in Orissa where maize, cotton, sugarcane, pulses and oilseeds could be produced;

(b) if so, the details of these areas;

(c) whether Government propose to increase cultivation in those areas; and